

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
PERRY COUNTY
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2008 UNMINED COAL TAXES**

**For The Period
August 1, 2008 Through July 20, 2009**



**CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
www.auditor.ky.gov**

**209 ST. CLAIR STREET
FRANKFORT, KY 40601-1817
TELEPHONE 502-564-5841
FACSIMILE 502-564-2912**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE PERRY COUNTY SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2008 UNMINED COAL TAXES

**For The Period
August 1, 2008 Through July 20, 2009**

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the audit of the Sheriff's Settlement - 2008 Unmined Coal Taxes for the Perry County Sheriff for the period August 1, 2008 through July 20, 2009. We have issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statement taken as a whole. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement is presented fairly in all material respects.

Financial Condition:

The Sheriff collected taxes of \$1,830,077 for the districts for 2008 - Unmined Coal Taxes, retaining commissions of \$71,045 to operate the Sheriff's office. The Sheriff distributed taxes of \$1,759,032 to the districts for 2008 - Unmined Coal Taxes.

Report Comment:

- The Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

Deposits:

The Sheriff's deposits were insured and collateralized by bank securities or bonds.

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CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

To the People of Kentucky

Honorable Steven L. Beshear, Governor

Jonathan Miller, Secretary

Finance and Administration Cabinet

Honorable Denny Ray Noble, Perry County Judge/Executive

Honorable John Leslie Burgett, Perry County Sheriff

Members of the Perry County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the Perry County Sheriff's Settlement - 2008 Unmined Coal Taxes for the period August 1, 2008 through July 20, 2009. This tax settlement is the responsibility of the Perry County Sheriff. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for Sheriff's Tax Settlements issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the Sheriff's office prepares the financial statement in accordance with the modified cash basis, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the Perry County Sheriff's taxes charged, credited, and paid for the period August 1, 2008 through July 20, 2009, in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated June 22, 2010 on our consideration of the Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.



To the People of Kentucky

Honorable Steven L. Beshear, Governor

Jonathan Miller, Secretary

Finance and Administration Cabinet

Honorable Denny Ray Noble, Perry County Judge/Executive

Honorable John Leslie Burgett, Perry County Sheriff

Members of the Perry County Fiscal Court

Based on the results of our audit, we present the accompanying comment and recommendation, included herein, which discusses the following report comment:

- The Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Crit Luallen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Crit Luallen

Auditor of Public Accounts

June 22, 2010

PERRY COUNTY
JOHN LESLIE BURGETT, SHERIFF
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2008 UNMINED COAL TAXES

For The Period August 1, 2008 Through July 20, 2009

<u>Charges</u>	<u>County Taxes</u>	<u>Special Taxing Districts</u>	<u>School Taxes</u>	<u>State Taxes</u>
Unmined Coal - 2008 Taxes	\$ 216,076	\$ 475,892	\$ 901,166	\$ 283,454
Additional Bills:				
2007 Taxes	16	31	65	21
2006 Taxes	14	24	57	18
2005 Taxes	1,605	2,352	6,007	2,082
2003 Taxes	3,041	3,596	11,213	3,517
Penalties	132	295	549	173
Gross Chargeable to Sheriff	<u>220,884</u>	<u>482,190</u>	<u>919,057</u>	<u>289,265</u>
<u>Credits</u>				
Exonerations	429	909	1,773	562
Discounts	4,177	9,170	17,423	5,481
Delinquent Real Estate	<u>4,722</u>	<u>10,787</u>	<u>19,695</u>	<u>6,191</u>
Total Credits	<u>9,328</u>	<u>20,866</u>	<u>38,891</u>	<u>12,234</u>
Taxes Collected	211,556	461,324	880,166	277,031
Less: Commissions *	<u>8,991</u>	<u>19,606</u>	<u>30,674</u>	<u>11,774</u>
Taxes Due	202,565	441,718	849,492	265,257
Taxes Paid	<u>202,565</u>	<u>441,718</u>	<u>849,492</u>	<u>265,257</u>
Due Districts				
as of Completion of Audit	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

* Commissions:

4.25% on	\$	949,911
3.5% on	\$	853,745
3% on	\$	26,421

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

PERRY COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 20, 2009

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

The Sheriff's office tax collection duties are limited to acting as an agent for assessed property owners and taxing districts. A fund is used to account for the collection and distribution of taxes. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement has been prepared on a modified cash basis of accounting. Basis of accounting refers to when charges, credits, and taxes paid are reported in the settlement statement. It relates to the timing of measurements regardless of the measurement focus.

Charges are sources of revenue which are recognized in the tax period in which they become available and measurable. Credits are reductions of revenue which are recognized when there is proper authorization. Taxes paid are uses of revenue which are recognized when distributions are made to the taxing districts and others.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the Sheriff's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

Note 2. Deposits

The Perry County Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as required by KRS 66.480(1)(d). According to KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the Sheriff and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution.

PERRY COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
July 20, 2009
(Continued)

Note 2. Deposits (Continued)

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a depository institution failure, the Sheriff's deposits may not be returned. The Perry County Sheriff does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk but rather follows the requirements of KRS 41.240(4). As of July 20, 2009, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

Note 3. Tax Collection Period

Unmined Coal Taxes

The tangible property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2008. Property taxes are billed to finance governmental services. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was February 23, 2009 through July 20, 2009.

Note 4. Interest Income

The Perry County Sheriff earned \$574 as interest income on 2008 - Unmined Coal Taxes. The Sheriff distributed the appropriate amount to the school district as required by statute, and the remainder was used to operate the Sheriff's office.

Note 5. Sheriff's 10% Add-On Fee

The Perry County Sheriff collected \$1,163 of 10% add-on fees allowed by KRS 134.430(3). This amount was used to operate the Sheriff's office.

Note 6. Advertising Costs And Fees

The Perry County Sheriff collected \$105 of advertising costs and \$140 of advertising fees allowed by KRS 424.330(1) and KRS 134.440(2). The Sheriff distributed the advertising costs to the county as required by statute, and the advertising fees were used to operate the Sheriff's office.

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REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON
COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Denny Ray Noble, Perry County Judge/Executive
Honorable John Leslie Burgett, Perry County Sheriff
Members of the Perry County Fiscal Court

**Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On
Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards**

We have audited the Perry County Sheriff's Settlement - 2008 Unmined Coal Taxes for the period August 1, 2008 through July 20, 2009, and have issued our report thereon dated June 22, 2010. The Sheriff prepares his financial statement in accordance with a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Perry County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Perry County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Perry County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However as discussed below, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the entity's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the entity's financial statement that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control over financial reporting. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying comment and recommendation to be a significant deficiency in internal control over financial reporting.

- The Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties



Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On
Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards
(Continued)

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting (Continued)

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statement will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in the internal control that might be significant deficiencies and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all significant deficiencies that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we consider the significant deficiency described above to be a material weakness.

Compliance And Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Perry County Sheriff's Settlement - 2008 Unmined Coal Taxes for the period August 1, 2008 through July 20, 2009 is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

The Perry County Sheriff's response to the finding identified in our audit is included in the accompanying comment and recommendation. We did not audit the Sheriff's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Perry County Fiscal Court, and the Department for Local Government and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,



Crit Luallen
Auditor of Public Accounts

June 22, 2010

COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

PERRY COUNTY
JOHN LESLIE BURGETT, SHERIFF
COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

For The Period August 1, 2008 Through July 20, 2009

INTERNAL CONTROL - SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCY AND MATERIAL WEAKNESS:

The Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

During our review of internal control, we found that the Sheriff's office has a lack of adequate segregation of duties. A significant deficiency occurs when someone has custody over assets and the responsibility of recording financial transactions. One employee's duties include collecting cash, recording taxes paid daily, preparing bank deposits, preparing monthly tax reports, preparing checks, and reconciling the bank account. Good internal controls dictate that the same employee should not be handling, recording, and reconciling cash receipts. A material weakness occurs when a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statement will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control.

If the Sheriff cannot segregate these duties, compensating controls such as the Sheriff recounting daily deposits, agreeing deposits to daily tax report, and agreeing deposits to the receipts ledger should be implemented. The Sheriff should also review reconciliations of taxes collected to taxes paid. The Sheriff should document these reviews by initialing and dating the bank deposit, daily checkout sheet, receipts ledger, and reconciliations. The Sheriff could also periodically compare the bank reconciliations to the balance in the checkbook and document this by initialing and dating the bank reconciliation and the balance in the checkbook. We recommend the Sheriff review office procedures to address this material weakness in internal control.

Sheriff's Response: We are making progress in this matter.

